

Voice of Charlotte County



From the desk of the Executive Director



In February I was appointed executive director of Enterprise Charlotte and am pleased to lead the agency as we enter a key period in the future of

Charlotte County and New Brunswick. I can think of no better place in New Brunswick for me to be involved in community economic development.

Charlotte County has enjoyed a spirit of entrepreneurship for well over 100 years with Connors Brothers, Ganongs and the Fairmont Algonquin leading the way. Over the last few decades they have been joined by companies such as Flakeboard, SWP, Lake Utopia Paper and Cooke Aquaculture as major employers, and contributors to our economy, exporting products across North America and beyond. And there are many other businesses and organizations including; M.G. Fisheries, Paturel International, Roosevelt – Campobello International Park, Impress Canada, Huntsman, Virtual Agent Services, Sticks and Stones Manufacturing and Crown Tanks with solid pasts and bright futures in Charlotte County.

We are entering a critical time in the future of Charlotte County and New Brunswick. With the provincial government's Self Sufficiency Task

Force Final Report released and with the completion of Community Growth Strategies from the 15 Enterprise Agencies across the province including Charlotte County's we are prepared to take on the challenge. Enterprise Charlotte is pleased to be an important part of the province's economic development team and we look forward to taking on the challenges of the Self Sufficiency Report.

Looking forward, construction of the Third Bridge between St. Stephen and Calais is underway and the twinning sections of Highway 1 is continuing. Less than a 45 minute drive from Charlotte County Irving Oil is considering the building of a second refinery, a cost of up to \$7 billion would be the largest project ever in Atlantic Canada. If built, it will require 5000 workers during construction and over 2000 permanent fulltime workers, providing many spin-offs across the Fundy Region. If the refinery joins the LNG facility and a second nuclear reactor at Point Lepreau, the Fundy Region will indeed be a major player in North America's energy sector.

As you will read in this newsletter we have had a few personnel changes at Enterprise Charlotte and I believe we have assembled an excellent team in Tara, Jill, Wendy and Shari.

The sun is staying out a bit longer these days and thankfully it is getting warmer. Charlotte County is a great

place to live anytime of the year but summers are particularly enjoyable. By working together we can ensure a bright future for Charlotte County.

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESIDENT

On June 26 Enterprise Charlotte will be hosting its 5th Annual General Meeting, and David Giddens will have completed his term as President of Enterprise Charlotte. While under normal circumstances the president of a not-for-profit agency deserves to be recognized, as do all volunteer directors, this is a special case. Dave has served as president of Enterprise Charlotte not once but twice. He was the second president taking over from Bill Robertson of Heritage Salmon and then, after his term was finished, stepping aside so that Joseph Klein could become president. Mr. Klein's term was cut short as he moved from the Fairmont Algonquin to a hotel in Ontario and Dave graciously agreed to move back into the president's chair.

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Dave better over the last few months and have seen first hand the energy and integrity he brings to the organization. On June 26th Enterprise Charlotte will welcome Philip Smith, General Manager of the Fairmont Algonquin as its new president. Dave will not be too far away as he has agreed to serve as past president. Dave, we thank you for your contribution to community economic development in Charlotte County!

Mike

Meet the Board of Directors



Back row, left to right: Andrew Moffitt, Moffitt Dodge; Keith Richardson, Keith's Building Supplies; Nick Ganong, Ganong Bros.; Glen Brown, Admiral Fish Farms; David Armstrong, Granite Town Hotel; Steve Crabbe, SWP Industries Inc.

Front row, left to right: Phil Smith, Fairmont Algonquin; Shelley McKeeman, St. Croix Printing & Publishing Ltd.; Linda McGee, True North Salmon; David Giddens, Connors Bros.

2007 Spring Business Mixer

Enterprise Charlotte, in partnership with the Community Business Development Corporation – Charlotte, will host its annual Spring Business Networking Mixer on Tuesday, June 5.

This year, the event will be held at the St. Stephen Royal Canadian Legion at 43 Queen Street, from 4:30–6:30 p.m.

The mixer is a great opportunity to meet community leaders, government partners and business people from around Charlotte County. To date, the business mixers have enjoyed resounding success – often with over 100 attendees!

To register call Enterprise Charlotte at 529-5518.

A Special Thank-You to our sponsors: CBDC; Scotiabank; The Card Group; St. Croix Printing & Publishing, and Stationary Plus

Employment Opportunities in Charlotte County

Are you looking for work in Charlotte County? Keep an eye on the Employment Opportunities page of Enterprise Charlotte's website (www.enterprisecharlotte.ca) for upcoming jobs around the County.

Are you an employer looking to advertise your upcoming jobs? Enterprise Charlotte posts all the jobs advertised in the St. Croix Courier/Courier weekend for free! So hurry and send your job posting in today!

If you have any questions or comments about anything on Enterprise Charlotte's website, please feel free to contact us at 529-5518.

Upcoming Workshops and Seminars

Enterprise Charlotte's Spring Business Networking Mixer

The mixer will be held on Tuesday, June 5 at the St. Stephen Royal Canadian Legion, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Shari at 529-5518.

Enterprise Charlotte's Annual General Meeting

is coming up quickly. It will be held on Tuesday, June 26. The location has yet to be determined, so please watch for more details in the local paper, and on our Calendar on the Enterprise Charlotte website!

Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp

Enterprise Charlotte will be hosting another youth camp this summer in St. Stephen. The dates are to be confirmed. If you would like more information, contact Wendy Tubbs, Youth Entrepreneurship Development Officer, at 465-6423.



Community Economic Development Agency

OUR TEAM

Michael Rouse - Executive Director
Tara Devlin - Economic Development Officer
Jill Jackson - Labour Force Development Officer
Wendy Tubbs - Youth Economic Development Officer
Shari Markee - Administrative Assistant

OUR BOARD

David Giddens - Connors Bros., *President*
Sector: Fisheries
Philip Smith - Fairmont Algonquin, *Vice-President*
Sector: Tourism
Nick Ganong - Ganong Bros., *Secretary*
Sector: Manufacturing
Mike Atkinson - Skretting, *Treasurer*
Sector: Aquaculture

Shelley McKeeman - St. Croix Printing & Publishing Ltd.
Sector: Manufacturing

Glen Brown - Admiral Fish Farms
Sector: Aquaculture

Stephen Crabbe - SWP Industries
Sector: Forestry/Wood

Keith Richardson - Keith's Building Supplies
Sector: Retail/Service/Transportation

Sandy Livingstone - Lake Utopia Paper
Sector: Manufacturing

Linda McGee - True North Salmon
Sector: Aquaculture

Andrew Moffitt - Moffitt Dodge Chrysler
Sector: Retail/Service/Transportation

David Armstrong - Granite Town Hotel
Sector: Tourism



Meet the Enterprise Charlotte Team!

2007 has seen many changes at Enterprise Charlotte. There are some new faces, as well as familiar faces still in place. Check out the employee profiles of the staff at Enterprise Charlotte to determine who would best meet your business needs. Feel free to get in touch with any of the staff at Enterprise Charlotte with any questions you may have about doing business in Charlotte County.

From left to right: Jill Jackson, Labour Force Development Officer; Shari Markee, Administrative Assistant; Michael Rouse, Executive Director; Wendy Tubbs, Youth Economic Development Officer; Tara Devlin, Economic Development Officer

Tara Devlin Economic Development Officer

My name is Tara Devlin and I am the new 'Economic Development Officer' at Enterprise Charlotte as of April 2007. Prior to this new role, I had been the 'Youth Entrepreneurship Development Officer' with Enterprise Charlotte since May 2005. I am very familiar with the local area as I grew up in Charlotte County and graduated from St. Stephen High School. After graduation I lived in Toronto for 5 years while obtaining my BA from York University. Like many other local residents I returned home to live, work and raise my family. I think Charlotte County is a great place to live with a variety of opportunities for employment and / or entrepreneurs.

In my role as economic development officer, I am available to meet with individuals regarding business start-ups, business plan and marketing plan assistance, funding programs, business skill training information, and networking opportunities. Please feel free to contact me at 529-5519 or drop by the Enterprise Charlotte office at 1-49 King Street in St. Andrews.

Jill Jackson Labour Force Development Officer

My name is Jill Jackson and I have taken over the role of LFDO for the next 12

months. My main duties are as follows: to assist in the coordination of labour force development (LFD) activities with regional partners, provide advice and guidance to the community economic development agency, offer information and advisory services to local businesses and community groups, as well as promote and support the delivery of programs and services. I also work closely with HR managers by responding to industry needs and promoting networking opportunities. For any LFD or HR related questions or concerns, or simply to discuss methods for retaining and properly dealing with staff issues please contact me directly at 529-5516 or jill.jackson@enterprisecharlotte.ca

Wendy Tubbs Youth Economic Development Officer

My name is Wendy Tubbs, BA, MBA, and I have newly started as the Youth Economic Development Officer for Enterprise Charlotte. I recently graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and am looking forward to working in the Charlotte County area. I am a graduate of St. Stephen High School and am familiar with the area and residents.

My focus is on youth economic and entrepreneurship development in the area. I am looking forward to working with the

youth in our area and am excited about educating those interested in the benefits and advantages of running and owning your own business. If you are between the ages of 16-35 and are interested in learning more about starting your own business, or have questions on business plan development or financing options, please contact me at 465-6423. I look forward to meeting and working with the young entrepreneurs of Charlotte County.

Shari Markee Administrative Assistant

My name is Shari Markee, and I am the Administrative Assistant at Enterprise Charlotte. I have been in this role since June of 2002. Before that, I attended the New Brunswick Community College in St. Andrews for one year in the Administrative Assistant program. I am originally from Grand Manan, but I have become familiar with many local residents and business people of the county over the past few years.

If you would like to learn more about Enterprise Charlotte and the services we offer, please feel free to contact me at 529-5518, or drop by our office at 49 King Street, St. Andrews to meet in person.



Skills Inventory Project Part II

The final version of the Supply Study will be available in June 2007, and can be found on our website at www.enterprisecharlotte.ca. This study examines barriers to employment. It includes an analysis of a focus group consisting of social assistance clients, as well as the results of a focus group conducted with local employers and guidance counselors. Another key aspect of this study will be the results of a labour force survey questionnaire, which was filled out by local residents from the Charlotte County area. All of the information collected will be reviewed and analyzed with the final goal being to develop an action plan for Charlotte County that will adequately address the specific labour force needs in this region. This study is a follow up to the Demand Study, which can be viewed on the Enterprise Charlotte website. For more information, contact **Jill Jackson, Labour Force Development Officer, 529-5516**.

Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp

In July 2007, Enterprise Charlotte will host its second annual 'Youth Entrepreneurship Summer Camp' in St. Stephen. Last year, 9 participants, ranging in age from 9-12, learned the ins-and-outs of running their own business, during a 1-week camp hosted by Enterprise Charlotte and ACOA. Each participant created a product to sell and on the last day of camp, the products were available for sale to the public in an outdoor market set-up in St. Stephen's town square.

Planning for this year's camp is still underway and will be released to the public very soon. If you would like more information on this year's camp, please contact **Wendy Tubbs, Youth Economic Development Officer, at 465-6423**. If you know a young person who is a self-starter, interested in knowing how to work for themselves, or wanting to participate in a week of learning and fun - this is the summer camp for them!

Youth – This Summer You Can Be Your Own Boss

The New Brunswick Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour can provide you with assistance in starting, running and maintaining your own summer business. The Student Entrepreneurship component of the SEED program, offers interest-free loans (up to \$3,000) to students who wish to create summer employment by starting their own business. If the loan is repaid by October 15th, 2007; a loan rebate of one-third of the total amount of the loan is available to the student. Eligibility includes:

- Must be returning to school in the fall;
- Must be eligible to work in Canada;
- Must be at least 16 years of age;
- Must be a resident of New Brunswick, or a First Nation Community in New Brunswick, or lived in New Brunswick for the last six months; and
- Cannot have an outstanding Student Entrepreneurship loan at the time of application.

If you are interested in becoming a student entrepreneur and you meet the above eligibility requirements, or would like additional information or an application booklet, contact **Wendy Tubbs, Youth Economic Development Officer, at 465-6423**.

Connect Charlotte – Business Retention & Expansion

Connect Charlotte is moving ahead with the business retention and expansion (BRE) initiative that began in early 2006 by following up on issues identified during the interview /survey process, which involved 52 businesses within the aquaculture, fisheries and manufacturing sectors.

Enterprise Charlotte acted as the organizing agency for the Connect Charlotte BRE initiative by providing a coordinator to move the project along. Mohamed Bagha, BRE project coordinator, fulfilled his term contract for the initial 2 phases of the project and has since left Enterprise Charlotte. The business retention and expansion initiative will continue to be a priority of Enterprise Charlotte, as the project moves into the action phase of working through the identified issues. Connect Charlotte is comprised of a Steering Committee and a Champions Committee. Both committees are comprised of volunteers from the business community in Charlotte County. The steering committee's main responsibility will be to steer the process, while the Champions Committee will be to provide business support. The contact person for the project is Tara Devlin, the Economic Development officer at Enterprise Charlotte.